

different things. If an acre occupied by
houses of two stories affords

different things. If an area occupied by houses of two storeys affords reasonable accommodation for one hundred persons, the same space covered with one-storey houses would reasonably accommodate two thousand; the surface crowding would be greater, but the amount of space allowed to each individual in the resulting open spaces would remain the same. Where, however, the houses are found sleeping in a space allowing only 150 cubic feet to each there is no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that they are overcrowded. In Hongkong it is overcrowding in houses that must be dealt with, whereas surface crowding, under topographical conditions of the place, is almost a momentary phenomenon. The crowding of the moment is of the surface crowding of a region crowded with diaries in the open field. The city has been described as answering to the definition of a straight line, possessing length and breadth, and with the one end of the straight line, the hillsides behind the harbour in the rear, and the other end of the straight line, the hillsides behind the surface crowding on the coast, the evil of it is large cities built on a different site and in which it is necessary to provide parks and open spaces to serve as lungs. Even in Hongkong it is of course important that there should be of a reasonable width and depth, but that the houses built on the surface of air both at the front and back. But the subject before the Sanitary Board is not surface crowding, but that of overcrowding in houses. The law requires that there shall be three hundred cubic feet of space for each adult sleeping in a house. If the Sanitary Board are unable to ascertain whether there are any considerable numbers of houses occupied with less than this proportion, and, if so, to determine the best means of giving effect to the law on the subject. But before the overcrowding is reduced it must be shown that there is an accumulation for the surplus population elsewhere. Mr. Egan has pointed out the eastern and western districts where in both the cases the houses are crowded, and the western houses which the landlords would be glad to let at very low rentals as compared with rentals in the central district. He suggested, however, one of the reasons why these districts are in favour with the Chinese population, namely, that the Chinese do not want the same security there as they do in the centre of the town. It appears to be a question taken to remove this objection by the clearing of the streets, and at Kennedy's suggestion a new police station has been established.

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standing order to that effect. Now, there is most distinctly a standing order to that effect. Article 34 says:—“A printed copy of every Bill shall if possible be sent to each member of the Council at least two clear days before it is read the first time.” As the Attorney-General stated in this particular Bill, it follows that there could be no reason for not sending a copy to the members as required by the rule we have quoted, both the members and the Council of which have been violated. We trust Mr. Justice will stick to his point, and will not allow the Attorney-General to appear as a first glance. Under the present system laws are often passed without that opportunity for careful consideration and discussion which the Standing Committee of principle of the Bill. As a matter of principle, the strict observance of all rules and regulations ought to be enforced on all officers of the Government, who, instead of considering themselves above the law, ought to be the most punctilious in their observance of it. There is also a gross inaccuracy into which the Attorney-General has fallen, which it may be well to point out. The hon. member said:—“The Rules of the Council are that there shall be no discussion or debate on the first reading of a Bill.” There is no such rule. There ought to be, and there was in the old rules, No. 23 of which read:—“On moving the first reading of a Bill the grounds and reasons upon which it is founded shall be stated, either by the Governor or any official member called upon by him for the purpose; and the discussion shall take place thereon.” In the rules framed in 1884 this was struck out, and, principally, probably, to get rid of the provisions contained in its earlier portion. Since the removal of the prohibition against discussion on the first reading of a Bill existed, it is clear that discussion has on several occasions actually taken place.

such an examination with youth on his side. Almost any elderly man would be beaten by boys in a school examination, in much the same way that a man who has been living for himself and his family by manual labour might be beaten in a sprint race by his twelve year old son. The "distinguished ornament," being one of the old school, would receive his call to the bar in consideration of his having eaten so many dinners. There is no elevation to the bench was no doubt due to his having distinguished himself at the bar. Although it is very necessary follow that the most successful barrister will make the most successful judge, still as a general rule it is found that such is the case. So in respect of every office, from the highest to the lowest ; the man best fitted for it may be selected by some incompetent between his qualifications and the particular test imposed, but be competitive system at least erodes the gross incapacity that used to be admitted under the system of patronage and nepotism and ensures ability up to a certain standard. If a better system can be devised, well and good ; but we maintain that the system, despite of its considerable drawbacks, has exercised on the whole a highly beneficial influence on education generally and raised the intellectual standard of the men employed in the public service.

of his supporters." This, so far as we can judge at this distance, accurately describes the character of the Boulanger party, as at present constituted, and the very dangerous nature of its aims. There is at present in France a ferocious desire for change; the existing political arrangement has not given satisfaction, and a cry has been set up for something new. General BOULANGER has risen into his present prominence with this cry, and he carries with him the potentents of all shades of opinion, who sink for the time their own differences to overthrow the present political system. What is to be set up in its place, with whom a matter to be decided afterwards.

The Chinese Exclusion Bill in the United States appears to fall with great hardening upon Chinamen who have recently returned after a visit to China. An Ottawa despatch published in our American mail news on Monday says that the case of the unfortunate passengers detained at the English Columbia boundary. They are not allowed to cross into the United States, the Canadian authorities insist on the collection of the head tax of \$180 from all who remain in Canada, and those who are in many cases penniless must pay it before they can do so. The unfortunate individuals who thus find themselves cut off outside in a strange land, where they cannot remain unless by paying money they have not got, and who are not allowed to proceed to their destination—The Canadian Government will therefore not allow them to come back, and will thereupon send them home, depriving the right of residence without payment of the head tax or make arrangements for their return to China. The treatment the Chinese are receiving abroad is creating among those of their countrymen at home a feeling of bitterness towards foreigners and all things foreign.

tions? Nothing of the sort. On the contrary, many a shop and drug threshold is besieged by these unfortunate beings clamoring for alms for hours together, and the wily (element, with usual phlegmatic temperament, has to throw a few copper-cash after a glance of an honor or two, being well aware that so long as one of these unwelcome visitors is hovering at his gate, none of his brethren in profession will disturb the good interest of his *confrère*. It is only in case of a desperate, disgraced and penniless beggar, that the shopkeeper, in the garb of a beggar, assumes the mode of earning the bread of indolence, bullying the half-biting citizen or dealer with violence to get a copper, or a troop of this pastoring fraternity menacing the shop or stall, that the Merchant is to be hunted out on his full bottom of his seraglio, or his favourite haunt for opium den; and so effective is the control he exercises over his beggars, that before an imperious wave of his hand, or a scornful, awe-inspiring frown, the most recalcitrant of the beggar turns as tame as a lamb before a tiger, and dies as fast as his limbs will carry him. He has, moreover, a special provision for the proper supervision of his beggar subjects, and is worthy, which not very busy with his opium pipe or gambling, is occasionally seen taking a leisurely drive. Once a month, on the available day, with his convalescence or absolute will, each of the six Chiefs distributes alms to all the beggars, and the assembled throng in the "Kichia Jan" or place of assembly, of the beggars, in proportion to the merit of each of the applicants.

With equally amazing ingenuity and originality of mind is this lowest stratum in the social organization of the natives subdivided into two main divisions, the high life and the low life, or Divin. Under the former category are included the chieftains, the decrepits, and all those who are infirm, and who either by their social position or by their physical condition are incapable of doing any useful work. The latter is an unfortunate accident of life or of age, and is not incarnated from carnal sin, their bread by the sweat of their brow. This class of beggarly and decrepit natives, who are a place of resort from the Tang Hwa, and who are known by the name age, and the circumstances attending the holder fully inscribed on it, which is a genuine proof of his subject matter. It is very common to find the exiles from other provinces, not only from the exiles, but also of settled life by a visitation of nature's scourge, such as a famine, inundation, or the prevalence of some disease, or the commission of a crime, which has made them liable to their native place dangerous. This class was composed of any of the six Chiefs above described, and was controlled by other Chiefs of the same rank, and was known by the name of the oldest and remotest of the "six" and the place. There are seventeen oldest families on each exile, operating in active harmony with the chief, and they enjoy the same privileges or exalted position as the exiles over their "exile" subject as the exiles do over theirs the writer could not ascer-

lost together into one Ordinance all the provisions relating to the subject matter, whatever it may be, are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the existing Ordinances of this colony; to collect their scattered provisions together and form them into one Ordinance and so to exhibit the existing law in a convenient shape only by lawyers but by laymen it may be interesting in the matter. With each consolidation Ordinance that is presented by the Revision Commission is a schedule which has been prepared by the Commission in this view to enable the Council to understand the proposed anything in the shape of amendment. I have carefully provided against when the Law that in these Consolidations are originally established by the Council. I have provided that they should introduce nothing in the way of substantial amendment in the law. If substantial amendments were allowed to be made it would be impossible to give these Consolidated Ordinances without raising questions for debate and discussion, which would prevent anything like a complete consolidation of the Ordinance of this time. The report which I have just read of the Revision Ordinance is a very good example of the kind of report the Law Revision Commission should make with the others. I will read the schedule which contains that portion of the existing local Ordinances are revised in the Ordinance of 1878, Ordinance of 1878, sections 1 to 8, and Ordinances 6 of 1879. These are the Ordinances relating local Ordinances which are re-enacted in the new Ordinance. Then follow what portions of the existing Ordinance are repealed; then what amendments are proposed in the draft Bill in this case none; then the portion of the Ordinance of the Imperial Statute law is incorporated in the Imperial Bill now. This report, it will be seen, is a guarantee to Council that this Bill is not less than the reproduction of the law in a convenient form for reference and consideration. I participate particularly on this point with reference to this particular Bill, in view of some remarks made by the Hon. the Attorney-General at the former meeting, in which he stated that the Government had under consideration and in contemplation a very substantial amendment of the laws of this colony. I mention this because there are several amendments under consideration which will not doubt have to be considered as amendments by this Council.

Mr. J. BAZZ-LAWRENCE—They are not considered as amendments by this Council.

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the public business to a district who falls within the jurisdiction of another Chief, it has to be renewed, and the payment of a fresh levy imposed by the Chief of the district. Before the matrimonial rites in rich family take place, with the concomitant of a splendid bridal procession or a public feast in the district, the inauguration of a newly built house, or the opening of a new shop, with all the befitting pomp incident upon such an occasion, is allowed, the payment of a very large sum of money to the Chief of the district is a necessary condition of a successful issue of such an auspicious event. It is said that in cases where the family falls from that blessed state of life which is fashionably styled the aristocracy of wealth, this fee sometimes ranges as high as 100,000 dollars, for the august head of the strange oligarchy of the district, of whose existence and little amenable to the laws of justice and reason, where he has ponned upon a victim who can well afford a squeeze.

are regarded as subject matter for contention. It is only intended to re-assert existing Ordinances. I have no order that the Legislature may have any objection to the consideration of such a question in suitable shape.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

HON. B. LAYTON—Before this Ordinance passes, the second reading I should like to make a few remarks. It seems from what the Attorney-General has told me that it is not necessary that we should have this ordinance read. We have all been in doubt as to what consolidation really meant, and from the passages just quoted by the hon. gentleman it appears that the people in the Colonies are not like the House of Lords who are not quite certain what consolidation means. In looking at this Ordinance the other day, it struck me that before this Ordinance was passed the Government were brought before the Chamber of Commerce and the shipping-community generally. So many of the people in it were of the opinion that it was so that they should be looked into before agreeing to the second reading I should like to know, after the explanation of the Attorney-General, whether the intention of the Government to bring in the Amended Ordinance at once, as I think the Bill should be discussed and amended by the mercantile community. The Attorney-General has told me that this Ordinance is intended to amend the law, but the reading of the Bill says "consolidate and amend the law."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I think it would be better if the words "amend the law" were left out.

HON. B. LAYTON—I will alter that thing.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I think that is an interference on the part of the Law Revision Commission that the words are left in the Bill because they say in their report there are no amendments.

HON. B. LAYTON—It alters the whole thing if these words are left out. It is then simply the same Ordinances as we have already but col-

